

California, from on or about May 6, 2018, until on or about September 9, 2018, and at possible additional exhibitions or venues yet to be determined, is in the national interest. I have ordered that Public Notice of these determinations be published in the **Federal Register**.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Elliot Chiu in the Office of the Legal Adviser, U.S. Department of State (telephone: 202-632-6471; email: section2459@state.gov). The mailing address is U.S. Department of State, L/PD, SA-5, Suite 5H03, Washington, DC 20522-0505.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: The foregoing determinations were made pursuant to the authority vested in me by the Act of October 19, 1965 (79 Stat. 985; 22 U.S.C. 2459), E.O. 12047 of March 27, 1978, the Foreign Affairs Reform and Restructuring Act of 1998 (112 Stat. 2681, *et seq.*; 22 U.S.C. 6501 note, *et seq.*), Delegation of Authority No. 234 of October 1, 1999, and Delegation of Authority No. 236-3 of August 28, 2000.

Dated: March 21, 2018.

Jennifer Zimdahl Galt,

Acting Assistant Secretary for Educational and Cultural Affairs, Department of State.

[FR Doc. 2018-06869 Filed 4-3-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-05-P

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

[Public Notice: 10376]

In the Matter of the Amendment of the Designation of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (and Other Aliases) as a Foreign Terrorist Organization Pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as Amended

Based upon a review of the Administrative Record assembled pursuant to Section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1189) (“INA”), and in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of the Treasury, I have concluded that there is a sufficient factual basis to find that the following are aliases of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba (and other aliases): Tehreek-e-Azadi-e-Kashmir, also known as Kashmir Freedom Movement, also known as Tehreek Azadi Jammu and Kashmir, also known as Tehreek-e-Azadi Jammu and Kashmir, also known as TAJK, also known as Movement for Freedom of Kashmir, also known as Tehrik-i-Azadi-i Kashmir, also known as Tehreek-e-Azadi-e-Jammu and Kashmir, also known as Milli Muslim League,

also known as Milli Muslim League Pakistan, also known as MML.

Therefore, pursuant to Section 219(b) of the INA, as amended (8 U.S.C. 1189(b)), I hereby amend the designation of Lashkar-e-Tayyiba as a foreign terrorist organization to include the following new aliases: Tehreek-e-Azadi-e-Kashmir, also known as Kashmir Freedom Movement, also known as Tehreek Azadi Jammu and Kashmir, also known as Tehreek-e-Azadi Jammu and Kashmir, also known as TAJK, also known as Movement for Freedom of Kashmir, also known as Tehrik-i-Azadi-i Kashmir, also known as Tehreek-e-Azadi-e-Jammu and Kashmir, also known as Milli Muslim League, also known as Milli Muslim League Pakistan, also known as MML.

This determination shall be published in the **Federal Register**.

Dated: March 24, 2018.

John J. Sullivan,

Deputy Secretary of State.

[FR Doc. 2018-06767 Filed 4-3-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4710-AD-P

SURFACE TRANSPORTATION BOARD

[Docket No. AB 43 (Sub-No. 188X)]

**Illinois Central Railroad Company—
Abandonment Exemption—in Hinds
County, MS**

Illinois Central Railroad Company (IC) has filed a verified notice of exemption under 49 CFR pt. 1152 subpart F—*Exempt Abandonments* to abandon approximately 1.8 miles of rail line extending northward from milepost 185.15 near McNutt Street to milepost 186.95 near High Street in Jackson, Hinds County, Miss. (the Line). The Line traverses United States Postal Zip Codes 39201 and 39202.

IC has certified that: (1) There has been no local rail traffic over the Line for at least two years; (2) there is no overhead traffic on the Line to be rerouted; (3) no formal complaint filed by a user of a rail service on the Line (or by a state or local government entity acting on behalf of such user) regarding cessation of service over the Line is either pending with the Surface Transportation Board (Board) or with any U.S. District Court or had been decided in favor of a complainant within the two-year period; and (4) the requirements at 49 CFR 1105.11 (transmittal letter), 49 CFR 1105.12 (newspaper publication), and 49 CFR 1152.50(d)(1) (notice to governmental agencies) have been met.

As a condition to this exemption, any employee adversely affected by the

abandonment of service shall be protected under *Oregon Short Line Railroad—Abandonment Portion Goshen Branch Between Firth & Ammon, in Bingham & Bonneville Counties, Idaho*, 360 I.C.C. 91 (1979). To address whether this condition adequately protects affected employees, a petition for partial revocation under 49 U.S.C. 10502(d) must be filed.

Provided no formal expression of intent to file an offer of financial assistance (OFA)¹ has been received, this exemption will be effective on May 3, 2018, unless stayed pending reconsideration. Petitions to stay that do not involve environmental issues,² formal expressions of intent to file an OFA under 49 CFR 1152.27(c)(2),³ must be filed by April 13, 2018. Petitions to reopen or requests for public use conditions under 49 CFR 1152.28 must be filed by April 23, 2018, with the Surface Transportation Board, 395 E Street SW, Washington, DC 20423-0001.⁴

A copy of any petition filed with Board should be sent to IC's representative, Bradon J. Smith, Fletcher & Sippel LLC, 29 North Wacker Drive, Suite 920, Chicago, IL 60606.

If the verified notice contains false or misleading information, the exemption is void ab initio.

IC has filed a combined environmental and historic report that addresses the effects, if any, of the abandonment on the environment and historic resources. OEA will issue an environmental assessment (EA) by April 6, 2018. Interested persons may obtain a copy of the EA by writing to OEA (Room 1100, Surface Transportation Board, Washington, DC 20423-0001) or

¹ The Board modified its OFA procedures effective July 29, 2017. Among other things, the OFA process now requires potential offerors, in their formal expression of intent, to make a preliminary financial responsibility showing based on a calculation using information contained in the carrier's filing and publicly available information. See *Offers of Financial Assistance*, EP 729 (STB served June 29, 2017); 82 FR 30,997 (July 5, 2017).

² The Board will grant a stay if an informed decision on environmental issues (whether raised by a party or by the Board's Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA) in its independent investigation) cannot be made before the exemption's effective date. See *Exemption of Out-of-Serv. Rail Lines*, 5 I.C.C.2d 377 (1989). Any request for a stay should be filed as soon as possible so that the Board may take appropriate action before the exemption's effective date.

³ Each OFA must be accompanied by the filing fee, which currently is set at \$1,800. See *Regulations Governing Fees for Servs. Performed in Connection with Licensing & Related Servs.—2017 Update*, EP 542 (Sub-No. 25), slip op. App. C at 20 (STB served July 28, 2017).

⁴ IC states that the Line is not suitable for any other public purpose and that it believes much of the Line will be subject to reversionary interests. (Notice 3.)

by calling OEA at (202) 245-0305. Assistance for the hearing impaired is available through the Federal Information Relay Service at (800) 877-8339. Comments on environmental and historic preservation matters must be filed within 15 days after the EA becomes available to the public.

Environmental, historic preservation, public use, or trail use/rail banking conditions will be imposed, where appropriate, in a subsequent decision.

Pursuant to 49 CFR 1152.29(e)(2), IC shall file a notice of consummation with the Board to signify that it has exercised the authority granted and fully abandoned the Line.

If consummation has not been effected by IC's filing of a notice of consummation by April 3, 2019, and there are no legal or regulatory barriers to consummation, the authority to abandon will automatically expire.

Board decisions and notices are available on our website at www.stb.gov.

Decided: March 28, 2018.

By the Board, Scott M. Zimmerman, Acting Director, Office of Proceedings.

Marline Simeon,

Clearance Clerk.

[FR Doc. 2018-06893 Filed 4-3-18; 8:45 am]

BILLING CODE 4915-01-P

OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES TRADE REPRESENTATIVE

[Docket Number USTR-2017-0004]

Generalized System of Preferences (GSP): Notice of Revisions to the 2017/ 2018 Annual GSP Product and Country Practices Review; Deadline for Filing Petitions; GSP Renewal and Technical Modifications

AGENCY: Office of the United States Trade Representative.

ACTION: Notice of procedures for submission of petitions from the public.

SUMMARY: The Office of the United States Trade Representative (USTR) will consider petitions to modify the GSP status of GSP beneficiary countries because of country practices; add products to GSP eligibility; remove products from GSP eligibility for one or more countries; waive competitive need limitations (CNLs); deny *de minimis* waivers for products eligible for *de minimis* waivers; and redesignate currently excluded products. This review will include separate hearings on product petitions and country eligibility reviews, which will be announced in the **Federal Register** at a later date.

DATES: To be considered in the 2017/2018 Annual GSP Review, USTR must

receive your petition by Monday, April 16, 2018 at midnight EST. This is the deadline for petitions to modify the GSP status of GSP beneficiary developing countries because of country practices; petitions requesting waivers of CNLs; petitions on GSP product eligibility additions and removals; petitions to deny *de minimis* waivers; or petitions to redesignate an excluded product.

USTR will not consider petitions submitted after the April 16, 2018 deadline. USTR will announce decisions on which petitions are accepted for review, along with a schedule for any related public hearings and the opportunity for the public to provide comments, at a later date.

ADDRESSES: USTR strongly prefers electronic submissions made through the Federal eRulemaking Portal: <http://www.regulations.gov>. Follow the instructions for submitting comments in section III below. The docket number is USTR-2017-0004. For alternatives to on-line submissions, please contact Yvonne Jamison at (202) 395-9666.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Erland Herfindahl at (202) 395-6364 or gsp@ustr.eop.gov.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION:

I. Background

The GSP program provides for the duty-free treatment of designated articles when imported from beneficiary developing countries. The GSP program is authorized by Title V of the Trade Act of 1974, as amended (Trade Act) (19 U.S.C. 2461 *et seq.*), and is implemented in accordance with Executive Order 11888 of November 24, 1975, as modified by subsequent Executive Orders and Presidential Proclamations.

The 2017 GSP Annual Product Review: The Interim Import Statistics Relating to Competitive Need Limitations is posted on the USTR website at <https://ustr.gov/issue-areas/preference-programs/generalized-system-preferences-gsp/current-reviews/gsp-2017-review>. These statistics include three lists:

List I identifies GSP-eligible articles from beneficiary developing countries (BDCs) that exceeded a CNL by having been imported into the United States in 2017 in excess of \$180 million, or in a quantity equal to or greater than 50 percent of the total U.S. import value for this product in 2017. Unless the President grants a waiver in response to a petition filed by an interested party, these products will be removed from GSP eligibility on November 1, 2018.

List II identifies GSP-eligible articles from BDCs that are above the 50 percent CNL but that are eligible for a *de*

minimis waiver. Petitions are not necessary for these products to be considered for *de minimis* waivers. As described below, petitions only will be accepted in opposition to potential *de minimis* waivers for these products.

List III identifies GSP-eligible articles from certain BDCs that currently are not receiving GSP duty-free treatment but may be considered for GSP redesignation in response to a petition filed by an interested party. Note that products exceeding 50 percent of imports may be considered for redesignation if there was no U.S. production in the last three years.

II. 2017/2018 Annual GSP Review

A. GSP Product and Beneficiary Country Review Petitions

Certain GSP Product Addition and Removal Petitions were submitted for review in 2017, as were petitions to modify the GSP status of GSP beneficiary developing countries because of country practices. Due to the lapse in authorization of GSP, and a resulting change in the schedule for the annual GSP review, USTR is reopening the window for submitting GSP product and country petitions. Any petitions previously submitted for this review do not need to be resubmitted.

B. Changes Resulting From Recent Legislation

The Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 (Pub. L. 115-141) reauthorized the GSP program and made a number of modifications. First, the GSP program is authorized through December 31, 2020, retroactive to January 1, 2018 (see the USTR GSP website at <https://ustr.gov/issue-areas/trade-development/preference-programs/generalized-system-preference-gsp> for details on retroactive authorization, effective date of authorization, and refund procedures). Second, Public Law 115-141 established a new timeline for the GSP review: The date for exclusion of items exceeding CNLs changed from July 1 to November 1. Third, with respect to the date for determining whether a product is not produced in the United States, Public Law 115-141 changed the date so that instead of requiring that the product not have been produced in the United States on January 1, 1995, the product must not have been produced in the United States "in any of the preceding three calendar years." For the 2017/2018 Annual Review this means calendar years 2015 to 2017. Interested parties filing CNL waiver petitions and redesignation petitions should indicate whether there was production of a like or directly